

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

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SUBJ: PORTUGUESE TIMOR - LETTER TO PRESIDENT OF UNSC FROM
FRETILIN

REF: USUN 378

1. ON FEBRUARY 3, PRESIDENT OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)
MOYNIHAN RECEIVED AND CIRCULATED TO OTHER UNSC MEMBERS
FOLLOWING LETTER FROM FRETILIN:

QUOTE

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 3RD., 1976.

HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN,
PRESIDENT,
SECURITY COUNCIL,
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UNITED NATIONS,
NEW YORK.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM DARWIN, AUSTRALIA THIS MORNING REPORT CONTINUED OBSTRUCTION OF MR. WINSPEARE GUICCIARDI'S MISSION ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL BY THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT, THE LEADERS OF THE MINORITY GROUPS IN DILI AND A LACK OF CO-OPERATION ON THE PART OF AUSTRALIA.

THE MINORITY LEADERS IN DILI ANNOUNCED AGAIN LAST NIGHT THAT ANY SHIP OR AIRCRAFT ATTEMPTING TO ENTER EAST TIMOR WITHOUT THEIR PERMISSION WOULD BE FIRED UPON. THESE SAME PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALREADY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING WITH MR. GUICCIARDI, HAVE REFUSED TO OFFER SAFE PASSAGE FOR HIS ATTEMPTS TO VISIT LEADERS OF FRETELIN AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR.

A SECOND REPORT STATES THAT WHEN CONTACT WAS MADE THROUGH THE RADIO ON THE PORTUGUESE WARSHIP WITH FRETELIN LEADERS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A MEETING WITH MR. GUICCIARDI, THE WAVELENGTH WAS JAMMED WITH ABUSIVE TALK IN PORTUGUESE, INDONESIAN AND TETUM THUS PREVENTING FURTHER COMMUNICATION.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, IT IS NOW SIX WEEKS SINCE THE SECURITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY PASSED THE RESOLUTIONS CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT DELAY ITS FORCES IN EAST TIMOR AND REQUESTING THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO SEND A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO MEET WITH ALL PARTIES.

SINCE JANUARY 19TH, WHEN MR. WINSPEARE GUICCIARDI BEGAN TO PLAN HIS VISIT TO MEET FRETELIN AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS IN EAST TIMOR, THE GOVERNMENTS OF INDONESIA AND AUSTRALIA AND THE MINORITY LEADERS IN INDONESIAN-OCCUPIED DILI HAVE PLACED EVERY POSSIBLE OBSTACLE IN THE PATH OF THIS MISSION.

ON JANUARY 25TH, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SEIZED THE RADIO IN DARWIN THAT IT KNEW HAD BEEN OPERATING FOR THE PREVIOUS SIX WEEKS AND WAS THE ONLY CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE
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MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD. THE RADIO WAS SEIZED AT THE TIME IT WAS BEING USED, AT MR. GUICCIARDI'S REQUEST TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS MEETING WITH FRETELIN AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR REFUSED TO ALLOW THIS RADIO LINK TO BE RESTORED, EVEN IF ONLY TO ASSIST THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE'S MISSION.

ON JANUARY 26TH, INDONESIAN FORCES BOMBARDED AND INVADED BETAN

ON THE SOUTH COAST AND UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO CAPTURE THE TOWN OF SAME. IT HAD BEEN KNOWN PUBLICLY IN AUSTRALIA THAT THESE TWO TOWNS HAD BEEN NAMED AS POSSIBLE PLACES FOR A MEETING BETWEEN FRETILIN LEADERS AND MR. GUICCIARDI. THIS LATEST INDONESIAN ASSAULT WAS AN OPEN AND DELIBERATE DEFIANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS MISSION.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, WE ASK THAT YOU TAKE URGENT ACTION TO ENSURE THAT INDONESIA, WHICH IS CLEARLY IN OCCUPATION OF DILI, BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESS AND SAFETY OF MR. GUICCIARDI'S MISSION AND THAT THE OBSTRUCTIVE AND DISRUPTIVE TACTIC OF ATTRIBUTING RESPONSIBILITY TO THE DILI LEADERS WHO THEN REFUSE TO RESPECT THE LIVES AND SAFETY OF EVEN THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION, BE NO LONGER COUNTENANCED.

THIS TECHNIQUE OF INDONESIA, THE MINORITY LEADERS IN DILI, OR BOTH PARTIES REFUSING TO RESPECT ANYONE'S SAFETY HAS BEEN USED SINCE THE INVASION OF DECEMBER 7TH TO ENSURE THAT EAST TIMOR REMAINS SEALED OFF FROM THE WORLD, WITHOUT AN INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS MISSION, A DOCTOR, AID OR RELIEF PERSONNEL OR FOREIGN NEWSMEN.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, WE ASK THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL:

(A) CONDEMN THE MINORITY LEADERS IN DILI FOR THEIR REFUSAL TO COOPERATE WITH MR. WINSPEARE GUICCIARDI'S MISSION AND RESPECT ITS SAFETY,

(B) REQUEST THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA, WHICH HAS LARGE NUMBERS OF TROOPS IN EAST TIMOR, TO OBTAIN FROM THE DILI LEADERS A GUARANTEE OF SAFETY FOR THE MISSION,

(C) ASK THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA TO RESTORE THE RADIO LINK
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AND LIFT ITS BAN ON SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT PROCEEDING TO EAST TIMOR, EVEN IF, AS IS REASONABLE, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CANNOT GUARANTEE THEIR SAFETY.

THE LIVES AND THE RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR DEPEND TO A LARGE EXTENT ON THE SUCCESS OF MR. WINSPEARE GUICCIARDI'S MISSION AS DOES THE AUTHORITY OF, AND INTERNATIONAL RESPECT FOR, THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL. WE TRUST THAT EVERY ACTION POSSIBLE WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT ALL PARTIES COOPERATE TO ENSURE THAT MR. GUICCIARDI MEETS WITH FRETILIN AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS WITHOUT THREAT AND RISK TO ANYONE'S LIFE.

YOURS RESPECTFULLY,

DAVID SCOTT, FOR JOSE RAMOS HORTA, MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND INFORMATION.
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MOYNIHAN

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